

Date Mailed January 25, 2002

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Northern States Power Company, for
Authority to Install a High Pressure Gas Main in St. Croix
and Polk Counties, Wisconsin

4220-CG-134

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING to consider the November 30, 2001, application of Northern States Power, Wisconsin (NSPW), as a gas public utility, for authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49, and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 133 to install a high pressure gas main in St. Croix and Polk Counties, Wisconsin.

NSPW is a public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5)(a), with its principal office at 1414 Hamilton Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. NSPW is engaged in the business of distributing and selling natural gas to approximately 82,000 customers in 69 communities located in eleven counties in Wisconsin and two counties in Upper Michigan.

NSPW states that the proposed project would provide an additional supply source for natural gas loads in and near the city of New Richmond. The gas supplies used in the New Richmond area are currently received exclusively from a Northern in St. Croix County Natural Gas Company (NNG) pipeline. NSPW states the existing capacity of the NNG pipeline is not adequate to supply both current gas use needs and expected growth. The proposed project would provide an additional supply source from a Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking) pipeline.

The proposed project consists of a regulator station at the intersection of CTH T and CTH G in the town of Erie Prairie, St. Croix County, 66,000 ft. of 4-inch steel main and 21,120 ft. of 4-inch plastic main to be installed in road rights-of way. NSPW also proposes to reimburse Viking for the cost of a new town border station in the town of Alden, Polk County. The estimated cost of the proposed project is \$985,765.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

Docket 4220-CG-134

This is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). Since no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely, neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 nor an environmental assessment is required.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator John R. Vogt at (608) 267-3374.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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